

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 15 to read as follows:

~~15~~ 1. (Twice Amended) A method for preventing, inhibiting, delaying onset of or ameliorating the effects of an autoimmune disease in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an autoimmune-preventing effective amount of non-infectious *Coxiella burnetii* or one or more antigenic components therefrom.

~~15~~ 15. (Twice Amended) A therapeutic composition for use in preventing, inhibiting, delaying onset of or ameliorating the effects of an autoimmune disease in a mammal, said composition comprising non-infectious *Coxiella burnetii* or one or more antigenic components therefrom and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-17, and 19-21 are pending. No new matter has been added. Support for amending claims 1 and 15 to recite "*Coxiella burnetii*" is found throughout the specification, including on page 5, lines 4-9. Support for amending claims 1 and 15 to recite "non-infectious" is provided on page 6, lines 12-19.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph, Enablement

The Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-17, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being non-enabled with regard to the scope. More particularly, the Action maintains that the claims of the instant application are not enabled as to any species or form of *Coxiella*, treatment of any autoimmune disease, or means of determining how to identify and reproducibly produce antigenic components of *Coxiella* for preventing, inhibiting, delaying